

Message Text

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43/45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPIC-03 SAM-01 IO-10 AF-06 OMB-01 EB-07

A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P R 081304Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4899

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6625

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 4, LINE 1 NOV VICE OCT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

REFS (A) LISBON 6621 DTG 071712Z NOV 75

(B) LISBON 6618 DTG 071645Z NOV 75

(C) LISBON 6450 DTG 311757Z OCT 75

SUMMARY: AIR FORCE CHIEF MORAIS DA SILVA SAID THAT PARATROOPS
FROM MILITARY INTERVENTION GROUP HAD DESTROYED RADIO RENASCENCA
TRANSMITTER NOV 7. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND COUNCIL OF
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MINISTERS ISSUED STRONG COMMUNIQUE NOV 7 WHICH MADE CLEAR THAT

ATTEMPTS BY THE LEFT TO PURGE THE GOVERNMENT SELECTIVELY WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED. BOMBS WERE PLACED AT FIVE PSP INSTALLATIONS. BUT, THE LEFT HAS YET TO MOUNT FULL-SCALE REACTION TO GOVERNMENT'S TOUGH STAND. DEMONSTRATION AGAINST FERREIRA DA CUNHA NIGHT OF NOV 7 DID NOT SEEK FURTHER PROVOCATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. RADIO RENASCENCA: AIR FORCE CHIEF MORAIS DA SILVA TOLD RADIO INTERVIEWER NOV 7 THAT PARATROOPS FROM MILITARY INTERVENTION GROUP (AMI) HAD SHUT DOWN RADIO RENASCENCA UNDER ORDERS OF PRESIDENT. (HE ALSO SAID THAT AMI WAS MADE UP OF ONE PARATROOP COMPANY, ONE COMMANDO COMPANY AND TWO MARINE COMPANIES. HE SAID THAT REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) HAD DECIDED ON DESTROYING RR TRANSMITTER AS QUICKEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE MANNER TO SILENCE THE STATION. HE SAID THAT RC HAD REJECTED OPTION OF REMOVING THE CRYSTALS SINCE THEY HAD BEEN QUICKLY REPLACED FOLLOWING OCT. 22 REMOVAL; AND HAD DECIDED AGAINST DISMANTLING TRANSMITTER SINCE THAT WOULD LEAVE TROOPS ON THE SCENE FOR TOO LONG A TIME. HE SAID THAT REOCCUPATION OF RR WAS NOT EVEN CONSIDERED SINCE TROOPS USED IN PREVIOUS OCCUPATION HAD BEEN SUBJECT TO PRESSURES FROM WORKERS AND MASSES, AND TO INTERNAL STRIFE. SEVERAL PARATROOPERS, WHO CLAIM TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE RR OPERATION, TOLD PRESS ON NOV. 7 THAT MANY PARATROOPERS WERE NOT INFORMED OF HOW THE STATION WOULD BE SILENCED. SOME TROOPS STATIONED AT LISBON SUPPLY DEPOT WHICH HOUSES PARATROOPERS REPORTEDLY VOTED MOTION CONDEMNING RR DESTRUCTION. ANOTHER GROUP OF SERGEANTS FROM A NUMBER OF AIR FORCE UNITS REPORTEDLY CENSURED RR ACTION. NONE OF THESE REPORTS INDICATE HOW MANY TROOPS PARTICIPATED IN THESE MEETINGS. FAR LEFT PARTIES HAVE CONDEMNED DESTRUCTION OF RR BUT COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) HAS NOT YET REACTED. THE SITE OF RR WAS NEARLY DESERTED AS OF 9:00 A.M. NOV 7.

2. RC COMMUNIQUE: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE OF NOV. 6 MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT WOULD NOT TOLERATE ATTEMPTS TO PURGE STATE APPARATUS SUCH AS OCCUPATION OF MINISTRY OF LABOR AND PICKETING AT MINISTRY OF MASS COMMUNICATION (REF A). RC STATED IT WOULD ALSO "OPPOSE WITH GREAT FIRMNESS" ANY EFFORT TO DIVIDE THE ARMED FORCES THROUGH THIS TYPE OF CAMPAIGN OR ACTION. RC CONFIDENTIAL

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DENIED THAT ANY SERVICE DEPENDENT ON RC WAS ENGAGED IN TELEPHONE BUGGING. RC ALSO COUNSELED ANGOLAN RETURNEES NOT TO BE MANIPULATED BY REACTIONARY FORCES.

3. FERREIRA DA CUNHA: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (CM) ALSO ISSUED COMMUNIQUE NOV. 7 WHICH CONDEMNED "IRRESPONSIBLE AND PROVOCATIVE" ATTEMPTS OF "SEVERAL DOZEN WORKERS AND MANY OUTSIDE ELEMENTS" TO PREVENT ENTRY INTO MINISTRY OF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR

INFORMATION, LT. COL. FERREIRA DA CUNHA. CM STATED THAT IT WOULD NOT CONSENT TO REPETITION OF SUCH ATTEMPTS, AND THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES TO AVOID THEIR REPETITION. MEANWHILE SMALL DEMONSTRATION AGAINST FERREIRA DA CUNHA TOOK PLACE AND DISPERSED WITHOUT INCIDENT EVENING OF NOV. 7. DEMONSTRATORS INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERSINDICAL AND A NUMBER OF COMMUNIST-DOMINATED UNIONS.

4. COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER, ALVARO CUNHAL, SPOKE AT NOV. 7 INDOOR RALLY, WHERE HE CONVERGED THEMES HE HAS STRESSED RECENTLY (REFS B AND C). HE SAID THAT THE STRUGGLE IN PORTUGAL WOULD BE EXTREMELY COMPLEX DUE TO THE PROLONGED POLITICAL-MILITARY CRISIS WHICH HAS GRAVELY AFFECTED THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (MFA) AND THE GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT THE MFA AND THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) ARE EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES SINCE PROGRESSIVE OFFICERS WERE REMOVED FROM RC, BUT THAT THE MFA AND THE RC CONTINUE TO BE NECESSARY. ACCORDING TO CUNHAL, THE COMMUNIST STRUGGLE SHOULD BE TO STRENGTHEN THE MFA AS A PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT OF THE "REVOLUTIONARY VANGUARD OF THE ARMED FORCES" AND TO STRENGTHEN THE RC THROUGH GREATER REPRESENTATION FOR REVOLUTIONARY TENDENCIES. CUNHAL SAID THAT DISCIPLINE WOULD BE ACHIEVED BY THE PURGE OF REACTIONARY ELEMENTS FROM THE ARMED FORCES. HE SAID THAT ANY EFFORT TO FORM A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT THE PCP WOULD ENCOUNTER SUCH RESISTANCE FROM "OUR PEOPLE" THAT IT WOULD NOT HAVE A LONG LIFE. HE SAID THAT WHILE PPD AND SOCIALIST (PS) LEADERS AFFIRM THERE IS NO DANGER OF A RIGHTIST COUP, JUST AS THEY DID BEFORE MARCH 11, THE PPC AND THE PS ARE PAVING THE WAY FOR SUCH A COUP WHEN THEY ATTACK THE LEFT. HE THEN CALLED FOR VIGILANCE AGAINST COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY COUPS.

5. VIOLENCE: DURING NIGHT OF NOV 7-8, FIVE SMALL BOMBS WERE PLACED AT POLICE (PSP) FACILITIES IN LISBON IN CLEAR RETALIATION FOR USE OF POLICE AT MINISTRY OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS. NO MAJOR DAMAGE WAS REPORTED. ANOTHER BOMB CAUSED NO

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DAMAGE AT POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PPC) OFFICES IN COIMBRA.

6. COMMENT: RR OPERATION WAS THE FIRST CARRIED OUT BY AMI UNDER ORDERS OF PRESIDENT AND RC. STAND TAKEN BY RC IN ITS COMMUNIQUE IS A VERY TOUGH ONE, AND SHOW OF FORCE AT RR WAS OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO SHOW LEFT THAT RC WILL NOT HESITATE TO USE THE NECESSARY FORCE WHEN DIRECTLY CHALLENGED. THE PPD AND THE PS ARE MOBILIZING BUSES AND PUBLICITY TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT AT NOV 9 RALLY. THE LEFT FOR ITS PART HAS REACTED TO GOVERNMENT'S STRONG STAND WITH BOMBS OF LAST NIGHT. DEMONSTRATION OF NOV 7 DID NOT SEEK FURTHER PROVOCATIONS.
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